



BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st. DECEMBER, 1969

BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

HEALTH COMMITTEE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1969.

Chairman:

ALDERMAN C. W. MILNE, J. P.

Vice-Chairman:

THE MAYOR - COUNCILLOR H. J. AYRES

COUNCILLOR G. A. GRANVILLE

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. REES, J. P.

COUNCILLOR J. G. MOSELEY

COUNCILLOR J. H. D. SAUNDERS

COUNCILLOR F. PHILLIPS

COUNCILLOR C. TESTER

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1969.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. H. WATSON, M. B., B. Ch., B. A. O., D. P. H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C. C.):

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M. B., B. S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

D. J. HUNT, M. A. P. H. I., Assoc. A. R. S. H.


Additional Public Health Inspectors:

C. W. RICHARDS, A. R. S. H., M. A. P. H. I. - Resigned 16th November, 1969.

R. W. L. READ, D. P. A., M. A. P. H. I.

Meat Inspector:

J. FIELD, Assoc. R. S. H., M. A. M. I.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1969.

Health Department,
22, King Square,
BRIDGWATER.

Telephone: Bridgwater 4147/8

September, 1970.

To:

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1969. The report is set out in the manner of previous reports, so that comparison with former years can easily be made. Generally the health of the Borough has been good and notification of infectious diseases has been satisfactorily low.

The vital statistics call for no special comment.

We were very sorry to lose Dr. C. M. Rooke who retired at the end of the year after some twenty years service in this area. We were also sorry that Mr. C. W. Richards, our Additional Public Health Inspector left to engage in private business.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration which I have received and for the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officers.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	2,083
Population (census 1961)	25,582
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1969.	26,800
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1969.	8,550
Rateable value on 31st December, 1969.	£1,181,756
Sum represented by 1d. rate on 31st December, 1969.	£4,780

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1969.

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	233	226	459
Illegitimate	27	25	52
	<u>260</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>511</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population			19.07
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			10.18
Still Births			9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births			17.31
Total live and still births			520
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)			17
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total			33.27
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			23.48
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)			21.53

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	38.46
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	NIL
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	NIL

Deaths

Total number of deaths	309
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.53

Births

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 511 births (260 boys and 251 girls) in the Borough during 1969, being 8 births less than in 1968. Of these births 52 were illegitimate. This is 10.2% of the total live births, as compared with 9.7% in 1968.

The birth rate for any area is dependent on the composition of its population, and the Registrar General provides a "Comparability Factor" which is used to enable comparison to be made between the vital statistics of different areas. The product of the local birth rate and the comparability factor for the area is used for this purpose. Adjusted in this way the Standardised Birth Rate was 18.69 per 1,000 of population, which is more or less what would be expected in a prosperous town with a high employment rate. The ratio of the Standardised Birth Rate to the national rate was 1.15.

Birth rates for Bridgwater and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Crude Local Birth Rate	19.37	18.64	18.81	19.42	19.07
Standardised Birth Rate	18.98	18.26	18.43	19.03	18.69
England and Wales	18.00	17.70	17.20	16.90	16.30

Still Births

9 still births were registered during the year. 8 were legitimate and 1 illegitimate. This number gives a rate of 17.30 per 1,000 total births.

Deaths

The number of deaths which occurred in the Borough during 1969 was 340. Of these 77 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand, 108 deaths of Bridgwater residents registered outside the Borough. The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the Borough was 309 (165 males and 144 females). This was 10 deaths less than in the previous year, and gave a crude death rate of 11.53.

This crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the population of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can be compared with the death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area. The Standardised Death Rate so obtained was 11.41 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 11.90 for England and Wales. The actual ratio was 0.96.

Death rates for Bridgwater Borough and England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Crude Death Rate	12.05	11.54	13.54	11.93	11.53
Standardised Death Rate	11.28	10.60	12.72	11.57	11.41
England and Wales	11.50	11.70	11.20	11.90	11.90

CAUSE OF DEATH	M	F	Total
ALL CAUSES	165	144	309
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	-	-	-
Other tuberculosis, incl. late effects	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	2	8
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	6	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	2	15
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	6	6	12
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	1	2
Diabetes mellitus	3	4	7
Anaemias	1	-	1
Meningitis	1	-	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	3	2	5
Hypertensive disease	6	9	15
Ischaemic heart disease	40	22	62
Other forms of heart disease	8	18	26
Cerebrovascular disease	14	16	30
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	12	12	24
Bronchitis and emphysema	14	2	16
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies	1	3	4
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	4	-	4
Other causes of perinatal mortality	2	1	3
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	2	3
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	1	2
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	4	4	8
Other diseases of circulatory system	11	13	24
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
Other diseases of digestive system	1	1	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	2	2

As will be seen from the foregoing table, the principal causes of death were as follows:-

Heart disease	108
Cancer	51
Cerebrovascular disease	30
Pneumonia and bronchitis	40

Deaths. Age Groups 1969.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 4 Weeks	8	4	12
4 Weeks and under 1 year	3	2	5
1 - 4 years	1	-	1
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	2	1	3
35 - 44 years	6	4	10
45 - 54 years	11	3	14
55 - 64 years	24	19	43
65 - 74 years	49	38	87
75 and over	61	73	134
	165	144	309

Cancer Mortality

The number of Bridgwater residents dying from cancer was 51 (males 28, females 23) as compared with 61 in 1968. They constituted 16.5% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease.

Location	Number of deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1968
Buccal Cavity etc.	-	1	1	-
Oesophagus	1	-	1	-
Stomach	6	2	8	13
Intestine	1	6	7	-
Lungs	13	2	15	16
Breast	-	5	5	10
Uterus	-	1	1	2
Other and unspecified organs	7	6	13	20
Total	28	23	51	61

Cancer of the Uterus

The County Council have now started a scheme whereby cervical smears can be taken with a view to preventing cancer of the womb. The tests are taken by family doctors and are examined at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Cancer of Lungs

The ages at which deaths from lung cancer occurred during the last five years is detailed in the following table: -

Year	Under 15	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	Over 65	Total
1965	-	-	-	1	-	4	7	12
1966	-	-	-	-	1	7	4	12
1967	-	-	-	-	1	4	8	13
1968	-	-	-	-	1	5	10	16
1969	-	-	-	-	2	2	11	15

Infantile Mortality

17 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gave an infantile mortality rate of 33.27 while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 18.00.

The following table shows the causes of the infant deaths in detail: -

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	-	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	-	-	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	1	-	1	-	2
Congenital anomalies	3	-	1	-	4
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	4	-	-	-	4
Other causes of perinatal mortality	3	-	-	-	3
All other accidents	-	-	-	1	1

There were 12 deaths of infants during the first 4 weeks of life compared with 8 the previous year.

Deaths from Heart Disease

Of the 309 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in 3 (males 57, females 51). It represented 34.95% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 4.03 per 1,000 of the population.

Influenza and Pneumonia Mortality

There were 26 deaths from these diseases. The mortality rate per 1,000 of the population was 0.97.

Suicide

2 deaths were caused by suicide.

Inquests

10 inquests were held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year.

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Road accidents	5	-	5
Suicide	-	2	2
Open verdict	1	-	1
Accidents in the home	2	-	2
	<hr/>		
Total	8	2	10
	<hr/>		

Population

The estimated population of the Borough as at June, 1969 was 26,800 which was an increase of 70 over the previous year. The natural increase in population, that is that excess of births over deaths, was 202.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u>	<u>Natural Increase</u>
1958	24,890	93
1959	25,290	147
1960	25,580	166
1961	25,580	129
1962	25,930	194
1963	26,130	192
1964	26,300	212
1965	26,480	195
1966	26,500	188
1967	26,580	140
1968	26,730	200
1969	26,800	202

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICE

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year include:-

Water samples	24
Ice Cream samples	80
Prepared Foods	65

Hospitals

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Regional Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are: -

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Hospital	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

The new Outpatients Department at Bridgwater Hospital has been completed and is proving very satisfactory. Unfortunately, because of financial restrictions, the South Western Regional Hospital Board have put back their plans to improve the Casualty and X-Ray Departments in the old building. However the Chest Clinic has now been transferred from the Health Centre at Mount Street to the new Outpatients Department at Bridgwater General Hospital. The Special Clinic, for the investigation and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases has also been transferred from the Health Centre to the General Hospital. Attendances at the Special Clinic during 1969 were as follows: -

	<u>new cases</u>		
Syphilis	-	Other conditions requiring treatment	26
Gonorrhoea	9	Other conditions not requiring treatment	12

Concern is felt at the delay in providing a new District General Hospital for West Somerset and representations have been made to the South Western Regional Hospital Board to secure improvement of facilities in existing hospitals as an interim measure.

It was hoped that when the Chest and Special Clinics were transferred from the Health Centre, the opportunity could be taken to provide surgery accommodation for general medical practitioners at the Centre. All doctors practicing in the town were informed and initially the interest shown was encouraging but detailed discussions revealed that the number who were likely to work from the Health Centre was insufficient to justify the alterations which would be necessary and the project was dropped. Consideration is now being given to transferring the Area Health Office from King Square to the Health Centre, in order to make better use of available accommodation.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Doctors' ante-natal clinics are held three times a week at the Mary Stanley Nursing Home and are staffed by general practitioners who are interested in maternity work. The clinics help to cement the relationship between patient, midwife and doctor and are particularly valuable.

The usual clinics held at the Health Centre on the first Monday and the third Wednesday of the month for taking blood samples from expectant mothers for determination of Rhesus Factor, blood groupings etc. were discontinued in December. Up to 17th December, 1969 760 persons attended. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 791. This work is now undertaken by family doctors as part of their antenatal service.

Relaxation Classes

These classes which are still very popular, are now held at the Health Centre on Tuesdays from 7.00 p. m. to 8.00 p. m. with an average attendance of 18 expectant mothers per session, and at the Mary Stanley Nursing Home on Wednesday from 7.30 p. m. to 8.30 p. m. when an average of 12 expectant mothers attend. Following short talks on "Parentcraft" by a doctor, health visitor or midwife, relaxation instruction is given by a physiotherapist.

Mothers Clubs

The Mothers Club which meets at the Health Centre has continued to flourish and has a membership of over 60 mothers. The average attendance at each weekly meeting is 45-50. After listening to a speaker or seeing an educational film, the mothers enjoy a social evening together. A similar club has now been organised for mothers living at the eastern end of the town and meetings are held every other Monday at 7.30 p. m. at Sydenham Secondary School during term time.

The club has a membership of 31 and the average weekly attendance is 28.

The mothers also help the Infant Welfare Clinic by taking charge of the play room during the infant welfare sessions.

Child Health

Child Health Clinics are held as follows:

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Tuesday, 2.00 to 4.00 p. m. Friday, 2.00 to 4.00 p. m.
The Community Centre, Parkway.	Thursday, 2.00 to 4.00 p. m.
Greenfields, (Clinic was closed in October Hamp Estate . now operating at the Health Centre)	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month. 2.00 to 4.00 p. m.

Because of unsatisfactory premises the Hamp Clinic was discontinued in October and children from that area are now seen at the Health Centre.

As mentioned in previous reports, Health Visitors and District Nurses are now attached to family doctor practices and to ensure that as far as possible mothers visiting Child Health Clinics meet their own nurse arrangements have been made for Health Visitors attached to practices to hold clinics at different centres on specific days and patients of the various doctors are encouraged to attend the clinics on those days. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

School Clinics

A school medical officer attends a school clinic each Monday morning from 10.00 a. m. at the Health Centre, Mount Street, and is available to advise parents on any health matters concerning their children. Many parents avail themselves of this additional opportunity to discuss their children's health with the school doctor.

School nurses hold minor ailments clinics at the Health Centre, from 9.00 a. m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Other clinics held at the Health Centre, Mount Street include:-

Orthopaedic Clinic	Monday a.m. (except first Monday in month)
Child Guidance Clinic	Tuesday a.m.
Breathing Exercises Clinic	Wednesday p.m. by appointment
Artificial Sunlight Clinic	Monday and Thursday p.m.
Speech Therapy Clinic	All day Monday, Tuesday a.m., All day Wednesday, Thursday a.m. and Friday a.m.
Chiropody	2nd and 4th Thursday a.m. and p.m.

Friarn Day Nursery

This nursery, administered by the County Council, is available for children aged 6 months to 5 years. A list of priorities has been drawn up by the Council and a local Admission Committee decides which children should be admitted. Admission is granted mainly on grounds of economic difficulty or unsatisfactory housing conditions. Accommodation is available for 25 children. The average daily attendance during 1969 was 24 children.

Ambulance Service

The new ambulance station at Friarn Street has functioned satisfactorily and efficiently. Ambulances are controlled by radio communication from a central control at Taunton and a satisfactory service is provided.

Home Help Service

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street.

Once again the Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 238 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of cases:-

Maternity	3
Old age and infirmity	187
Tuberculosis	2
Chronic sick	23
Post operation	6
Emergency illness	2
Other cases	12
Post & pre-natal	3

In many cases assisted the patient or other members of the family would have been unable to remain at home were it not for the Home Help Service.

In addition to the normal service, arrangements have been made for women to sit up with seriously ill cases where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

The number of Home Helps at 31st December, 1969 was as follows:-

Full time	6
Part time	27

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

Welfare of Old People

The various organisations to which reference was made in previous reports have continued to play an important part in contributing to the welfare of old people. The inclusion of chiropody treatment as part of the National Health Service has helped to fill a great need and has been much appreciated by the old people.

The Council assist the W. V. S. in providing meals on wheels for old people and this worthwhile service is greatly appreciated by the recipients. An average of 130 meals per week are distributed.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Borough during 1969. The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals.

Disease	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65-80	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Whooping cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	3	4	7	8	11	14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	48	-
Tuberculosis: Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	3
Non - respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
Acute Meningitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	4	-
TOTAL	4	5	8	8	11	17	-	1	-	3	2	2	2	63	4

During the previous year 248 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

No cases were notified during the year.

Measles

48 cases of measles were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever

3 cases were notified.

Tuberculosis

4 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and no non-respiratory case of tuberculosis was notified in 1969, as compared with 2 respiratory cases and 1 non-respiratory in 1968.

	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.69.	86	10
Number of new cases during year	4	-
Number of deaths during the year	-	1

The following table shows the sex and age group of cases notified during the year:-

Age	Under 5	5 - 14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	Age Unknown	Total
Male	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3
Female	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

B. C. G. Vaccine

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B. C. G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages 13 and 14 years attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 721 accepted the offer and received preliminary skin test, the "Half-Test", to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 575 of these gave negative results and were vaccinated with the B. C. G. vaccine.

Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Refuse disposal is by Controlled Tipping and use as tipping sites is made of the many claypits surrounding the town. The tip at present in use is situated close to a residential area, and the strictest control over tipping technique is essential if nuisance is to be avoided. The Council are at present looking into the possibility of establishing in the rural area a tip which could be used jointly with the Rural District Council, particularly during the hot summer months of the year.

Water Supplies

Regular bacteriological examination has been made of the water going into supply.

Results were as follows:-

Ashford Supply

12 samples were tested after treatment and all gave excellent results.

Durleigh Supply

12 samples were tested after treatment and all gave excellent results.

Chemical Analysis

Reports were as follows:-

Ashford Reservoir

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright.
	Hazen units less than 5.
Reaction	Very slightly alkaline.
pH	7.1
Free Carbon Dioxide	2.0
Total Solids	220.0
Total Alkalinity (As CaCO ₃)	120.0
Carbonate Hardness "	120.0
Non-Carbonate "	40.0
Total Hardness "	160.0
Chloride (as Cl)	25.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid " "	0.030
Nitrate " "	1.8
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in four hours at 27° C.	0.25
Sediment	Nil
Iron	Nil
Copper, Lead and Zinc	Nil

Durleigh Reservoir

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright.
	Hazen units less than 5.
Reaction	Very slightly alkaline.
pH	7.2
Free Carbon Dioxide	4.0
Total Solids	275.0
Total Alkalinity (As CaCO ₃)	145.0
Carbonate Hardness "	145.0
Non-Carbonate " "	50.0
Total Hardness "	195.0
Chloride (as Cl)	26.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.004
Albuminoid " "	0.108
Nitrate " "	2.2
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in four hours at 27° C.	0.80
Sediment	Nil
Iron, Copper, Lead and Zinc	Nil

Both supplies showed moderately hard waters containing some organic pollution.

Swimming Baths

Treatment of the water in the swimming baths is regularly supervised. Modern plant enables the water to be turned over every six hours and at the same time to be filtered and purified. Bacteriological examination of the water was carried out on 15 occasions all of which gave excellent results.

Sewage Disposal

The provision of a new sewer outfall to relieve overloaded sewers at Chilton Street and to provide for development in that area has been held up pending discussion with the River Authority on the broader question of sewage disposal from the Borough as a whole. The Council's consulting engineers have prepared a detailed scheme for treating all domestic sewage before discharge to the River Parrett, but at the present time discussions are being held with the Bridgwater Rural District Council to consider the merits of providing a joint treatment works to deal with sewage from both areas. In the meantime consideration is also being given to measures designed to reduce the polluting effect of trade effluent on the river.

Housing

Number of permanent dwellings in Borough	8, 798
Number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority	3, 610
Number of houses demolished or closed during the year as a result of formal or informal action	4

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection	
	For Slum Clearance	For Other purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other purposes
Local Authority	-	4	-	28
Private Enterprise	-	53	-	19

Advantage has also been taken of Improvement Grants made under the Housing Acts, 1949-54. 47 applications were received and 35 were approved.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1937:

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	6	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	135	113	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	4	-	-
Total	147	122	1	-

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instructed
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Insp.	By H. M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	1	-

	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-whole-some prem.	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing) Making etc. apparel) Cleaning and Washing	65	-	-	-	-	-
Total	65	-	-	-	-	-

STAFF EXAMINATIONS

Medical examinations carried out by the Department in connection with new appointments to the Council's staff, and in connection with the Superannuation Scheme and the Workmen's Sickness Benefit Regulations, were as follows:-

<u>Department</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Town Clerk	1	2	3
Borough Engineer	37	4	41
Borough Treasurer	-	2	2
Housing	5	1	6
Health	-	-	-
Library	2	6	8
	45	15	60

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To:

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1969.

Housing

In 1968 a complete survey was made of the houses in Union Street to ascertain the fitness of each individual house. A total of 71 houses were involved and of these 25 were found to be of a standard which classified them as fit. Most of these were owner/occupied and in many cases a good deal of money had been spent on them by the existing occupiers. Of the remainder, 10 houses were already closed.

No immediate redevelopment proposals are available for this area and the Health Committee decided that having regard to all the circumstances, that for the time being, we should continue to deal with individual unfit houses.

Following this policy a further 3 houses have been closed up to the time of writing this report.

During the year numerous complaints were received and dealt with under the Public Health or Housing Acts.

18 preliminary notices were served. In no case was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

18 houses were inspected for the purpose of having defects remedied. During the year 11 houses were made fit, 4 houses were the subject of Closing Orders. Two houses were declared unfit under the provisions of Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957.

The inspection of accommodation occupied by applicants on the Housing Waiting List still entails a considerable amount of work and this has now been extended to include applicants residing near to, but outside of the Borough boundary. Altogether 269 houses were inspected for this purpose.

No new cases of overcrowding were reported during the year so that the total on the register remains at seven.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Registrations and Inspections

The whole of the premises coming within the scope of the Act have been registered. The Act places a duty on the occupier of the premises to notify the Local Authority in writing if he intends to use premises which will be subject to Registration.

Regular inspections are made of all registered premises.

Operation of the General Provisions of the Act.

The inspections have revealed and remedied a number of minor infringements of the Act, a list of which is given in the table on the following page. However, the number of infringements under each section continues to decrease which is a direct result of continuous inspection and advice given by the department.

Exemptions

One exemption was granted in 1968. This was for exemption under Section 46 from the requirements to provide separate sanitary accommodation for the sexes. The exemption was granted for two years.

Accidents

The number of accidents reported during 1969 was six, which is 1 less than in 1968. The injuries were fortunately of a minor nature and generally resulted in a strained back or slight scalding.

Prosecutions

There has been no necessity to institute legal proceedings.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	5	125	15
Retail Shops	9	248	30
Wholesale shops, warehouses	3	22	8
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	28	4
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	1, 145
Retail shops	1, 309
Wholesale departments, warehouses	327
Catering establishments open to the public	188
Canteens	2
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	2, 971
Total Females	1, 567
Total Males	1, 404

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness 4	13	Seating Facilities 1
5	Overcrowding 1	14	Seats (sedentary workers) -
6	Temperature 16	15	Eating facilities 1
7	Ventilation 6	16	Floors, passages & stairs 9
8	Lighting -	17	Fencing exposed part machinery 7
9	Sanitary conveniences 14	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery -
10	Washing facilities 12	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery -
11	Supply of drinking water -	23	Prohibition of heavy work -
12	Clothing accommodation 4	24	First Aid General Provisions 22
22.		Total	97

Rent Act, 1957

No application for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

The following table gives the amount of work carried out under the Act since it came into force.

No. of applications received	65
No. of houses inspected	65
Form J's sent to owners	65
Form K's received from owners	39
Repairs completed	58
Houses demolished	3
Applications withdrawn - tenants purchased house	3
Certificates of Disrepair issued	25
Certificates of Disrepair revoked	22

Infectious Diseases

Enquiries are made in cases of notifiable disease and disinfection is carried out free of cost. In other cases a charge is made. The disinfecting plant at Market Street is functioning satisfactorily.

Foods

The inspection of food and the premises in which it is prepared for sale or sold is one of the most important duties of the department.

(i) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Routine inspections of premises under the above Regulations have occupied a great deal of time. Shop keepers have been found to be most co-operative and show considerable interest in the production and sale of food under hygienic conditions. The increasing tendency of manufacturers to pre-pack their products is also a major factor in general appearance of food shops. The serving of notices requiring improvements is now superseded in the main by verbal requests which are producing the same results.

The number of food premises in the Borough which are subject to these Regulations is 229 and have been classified in the following categories. Each food business is classified by its main trade, due to the diversity of foodstuffs sold in many premises.

	No. of Premises	Premis. fitted to comply with Reg. 16(hand washing facilities)	No. of premis. to which Reg. 19 applies	Premis. fitted to comply with Reg. 19(food & equip. washing fac.)
Grocers	60	60	60	60
Butchers	20	20	20	20
Bakers & confectioners (incl. distribution centres)	14	14	14	14
Restaurants, unlicensed hotels and kiosks	14	14	14	14
Greengrocers	11	11	11	11
Confectioners (sweetmeats)	25	25	25	25
Wet Fish	2	2	2	2
Fried Fish Shops	10	10	10	10
Licensed premises (inc. off-licences)	59	59	59	59
Cooked meats etc.	3	3	3	3
Canteens	11	11	11	11

61 stalls, which includes St. Matthews Fair, have also been inspected during the year.

(ii) The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is 113.

Ice-Cream Premises	82
Potted, Pressed, Pickled and Preserved Foods	31
The number of firms retailing milk in the Borough is	39

All milk sold in the Borough is either, Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

(iii) The number of inspections of registered food premises is given in the summary at the end of the report.

(iv) In connection with the visits to food premises the following foods were condemned.

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Meat at Slaughterhouse	49	3	37
Meat at retail shops		8	94
Cooked meat and meat products		7	-
Bacon		15	69
Canned meat		4	68
Canned vegetables		11	74
Canned fruit	1	1	-
Frozen foods		9	51
Other foods	3	17	104
	<hr/> 56	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 49

The meat, after staining, was sent to a sterilisation plant and other foods disposed of at the Corporation Refuse Tip.

(v) No special examination of a stock or consignment of food has been necessary.

(vi) Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959 - 1963.

The number of premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream is as follows:-

Registered for manufacture and sale	2
Registered for sale	80

In both instances of manufacture, brands of cold mix are used.

70 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and these were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	67
Grade 2	3
Grade 3	-
Grade 4	-

These results are quite satisfactory.

Meat Inspection

All slaughtering in the Borough is carried out at a privately owned slaughterhouse at the Cattle Market. It is well provided with refrigerated space and a good cooling hall. A larger water main was installed during 1968 so that there is a plentiful supply for all purposes. Individual paper towels are provided for wiping down each carcass and there is a sterilising tank for knives, saws etc.

The owners of the slaughterhouse decided towards the end of the year to operate a 5 day week and to close the slaughterhouse on Saturdays and Sundays. This was welcome news for the Public Health staff who for many years had worked week-ends in order to maintain 100% meat inspection.

All meat passed as fit for human consumption is stamped in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

The general quality of meat inspected was very good and the great majority of carcasses rejected were from animals slaughtered for emergency reasons.

Carcasses Inspected

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	1, 188	116	3, 424	24, 746	* 28, 698	58, 172
Number Examined	1, 188	116	3, 424	24, 746	* 28, 698	58, 172

* includes 103 sows and 16 boars

No horses were slaughtered within the Borough.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>All diseases except T. B. & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	5	9	213	62	299	588
Parts or organs condemned	447	56	47	2, 798	6, 747	10, 095
% of the no. inspected affected with diseases other than T. B. or Cysticerci	38. 0	56. 0	7. 6	11. 6	24. 6	18. 4
<u>T. B. only</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	-	1
Parts or organs condemned	-	-	-	-	342	342
% of no. inspected affected with T. B.	-	0. 9	-	-	1. 2	0. 6

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	-	-	6
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6	-	-	-	-	6
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for</u>						
(a) T. B.	-	550	-	-	4, 294	4, 844
(b) Cysticercosis	158	-	-	-	-	158
(c) Other	7, 971	7, 218	11, 529	9, 633	68, 780	105, 131
Total (lbs.)	8, 129	7, 768	11, 529	9, 633	73, 074	110, 133

Conditions Rendering Carcase Meat and Organs Unfit for Human Consumption

Disease or condition	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Abnormal odour	-	-	590(11)	-	662(9)
Abscesses	444	92	17	140(2)	1, 234(1)
Acetonaemia	-	-	41(1)	-	-
Actinomycosis & actinobacillosis	57	30	-	-	-
Anaemia	-	-	-	120(3)	156(2)
Arthritic conditions	10	-	15	120	709
Ascariasis	-	-	-	-	4, 461
Bruising	642	1, 481(1)	22	166	681
Cirrhosis	61	14	7	-	2, 302
Congestion	11	-	10	4	2, 357
Contamination (tank water)	-	-	-	-	2, 156
C. Bovis	158	-	-	-	-
C. Ovis	-	-	-	56	-
C. Tenuicollis	-	-	-	530	-
Decomposition	139	14	-	20	36
Emaciation, pathological	-	-	575(10)	779(21)	2, 326(29)
Enteritis, acute gastro -	-	-	148(3)	-	-
Fascioliasis	4, 042	449	-	1, 770	-
Fatty change	-	15	-	11	3
Fever (pyrexia)	354(1)	585(1)	1, 981(20)	34(1)	321(3)
Gangrene	-	35	-	-	110(1)
Hydatid cysts	-	-	-	107	-
Immature	-	-	185(9)	-	-
Imperfectly bled	-	1, 387(2)	159(3)	161(3)	151(2)
Inflammatory conditions	41	11	10	59	11, 910
Jaundice (icterus)	-	-	40(1)	-	774(7)

Disease or conditions	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Mastitis, acute septic	-	611(1)	-	67(1)	-
Metritis, acute septic	-	-	-	125(2)	-
Moribund	604(1)	643(1)	1, 302(28)	468(7)	3, 232(29)
Muellerius capillaris	-	-	-	335	-
Nephritis, incl. "white spot"	-	6	13	-	2
Oedema	452(1)	482(1)	833(18)	395(10)	545(7)
Other diseases or conditions	16	21	13	10	43
Parasitical conditions	-	-	-	2, 530	-
Pericarditis	19	4	1	18	581
Pericarditis, acute septic	-	-	-	-	1, 701(15)
Peritonitis, acute septic	-	-	48(1)	317(6)	2, 256(19)
Pleurisy	178	35	-	43	814
Pleurisy, acute septic	-	-	130(2)	68(2)	6, 449(61)
Pneumonia	-	12	43	974	10, 033
Pneumonia, acute septic	-	-	262(4)	-	322(4)
Pyæmia, incl. joint-ill	-	-	3, 799(83)	39(1)	11, 357(101)
Septic omphalophlebitis	-	-	438(6)	-	-
Septicæmia	380(1)	1, 182(2)	480(8)	94(2)	700(6)
Telangiectasis	39	109	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	73(1)	-
Toxæmia	482(1)	-	367(5)	-	406(3)
Tuberculosis	-	550(1)	-	-	4, 294
Total weights (in lbs.)	8, 129(5)	7, 768(10)	11, 529(213)	9, 633(62)	73, 074(299)

Total weight of meat and offals rejected:-

49 tons 3 cwts. 1 qr. 9 lbs.

The figures in brackets indicate the number of cases where the whole of the carcasses and their organs were rejected.

Foreign Bodies in Food

Nine complaints were received of foreign bodies in food. Examples of these complaints are metal fragments, mould growth and insect in food substances. It is worth recording that in the case of one genuine complaint of a piece of metal found in porridge oats it was discovered on investigation that it was a rivet head which, unknown to the housewife, had worked loose from the sauce pan and fallen into the porridge whilst it was being cooked.

Each case is investigated and we acknowledge the ready co-operation given by other local authorities when it is found necessary.

No legal proceedings were necessary but warning letters were sent in appropriate cases.

Bacteriological Sampling of Food

Forty six samples of such foods as sausages, meat pies, faggots, minced beef and flour confectionery were taken for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory.

A further 14 special food samples were taken from restaurants and subjected to a bacteriological plate count. Four of these gave rather poor results but follow up samples were found to be satisfactory. I believe this exercise was worthwhile in that it demonstrated to the kitchen staff concerned the importance of time and temperature control of prepared meats.

Clean Air

On the 1st October, 1969 sections 1 to 4 of the Clean Air Act, 1968 came into operation. Section 1 has particular importance as it makes it an offence to permit dark smoke to be emitted from any industrial or trade premises. This does not include dark smoke from a chimney of a building which is already dealt with by the Clean Air Act, 1956.

This section applies to the burning of all manner of rubbish on open ground within trade premises. Certain exemptions are allowed such as burning of waste material from the demolition of a building; surfacing and resurfacing of highways; burning of diseased carcasses etc. However, the indiscriminate burning of trade waste including old motor vehicles is no longer allowed.

One of our larger industrial concerns made immediate arrangements to tip any waste material which could not be disposed of in their waste heat boiler and no longer burn any on open ground.

There have been occasions when large volumes of black smoke have been seen as a result of these "industrial bonfires" and the persons responsible have been informed of their obligations under the Act. This informal action appears to have been successful because we have seldom, if ever, had to make a second visit.

General observations are made of all factory chimneys and advice given when required.

Installation of all new furnaces is notified to the department under the provisions of the Act.

Noise Abatement

Complaints of noise can range from a disturbance caused by the next door neighbour to the noise emitted twenty four hours a day from a factory affecting a large number of residents.

Whilst there is no legal definition of what constitutes a noise nuisance it may be said to apply when a noise is so loud or so irritating in character and which is either so prolonged or repeated as to interfere materially with the ordinary accepted standards of human comfort.

In a Circular issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government dealing with Industrial Noise they advocate that the responsibility for dealing with industrial noise affecting the general public should remain with local authorities.

A good deal of time was spent on this aspect of environmental health and a lot of solid achievement can be claimed.

The myth of associating dirt, smoke and grime with industry has been exploded with the progress made since the advent of the Clean Air Act and I am confident that the same energy will be directed to reduce as far as possible unwanted noise from our daily environment.

The department will continue to give priority to complaints of this nature and it is pleasing to report that in all cases so far encountered the firms have been most co-operative.

Swimming Baths

Samples of water in the baths at the Broadway Lido were sent for bacteriological examination regularly throughout the season. 15 samples were examined, all were satisfactory.

Caravans

There are 2 licensed caravan sites in the Borough. One owned by the Corporation has been leased to a private developer. Both sites are mainly used for the larger residential type caravan with a number of spaces reserved for the touring caravan. There is also a site licensed for one single caravan.

Rats and Mice Destruction

No. of sewer treatments - 2

No. of refuse tip treatments - 4

No. of complaints received of rat and mouse infestation

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	10,718	13
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	329	-
(b) Number infected by (i) Rats	257	-
(ii) Mice	60	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	6,946	13
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	78	-
(ii) Mice	43	-

During the year 4 full scale treatments were carried out on the refuse tips at Bristol Road and Saltlands.

Two sewer treatments were completed, the first consisting of the prolonged baiting of some 98 manholes, showed a take of 17, the second consisting of 105 manholes with a take of 11.

These results are most satisfactory and reflect the excellent work carried out throughout the year by our Rodent Operators.

Staff

Mr. C. W. Richards, Additional Public Health Inspector, resigned from his appointment on the 16th November, 1969 in order to go into private business.

SUMMARY

Inspections made during the year

Environmental Health

Water Supply	31
Drainage	283
Stable and Piggeries	17
Factories	138
Outworkers	109
Rodent Control	172
Shops	68
Caravan Sites	29
Swimming Baths	17
Atmospheric Pollution	204
Pet Shops and Kennels	5
Licensed Premises	64
Noise Nuisances	191
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises - General Inspections	57
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises - Other Visits	154
Miscellaneous	315

Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	29
Visits paid to the above houses	85
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	73
Visits paid to the above houses	151
Houses inspected under the Rent Act	-
Visits paid under the Rent Act	-
Houses inspected under the Housing Points Scheme	269
Houses inspected in connection with overcrowding	11
Visits paid to the above houses	11
Verminous premises inspected	12
Visits paid to the above premises	20
Miscellaneous	73

Infectious Diseases

Enquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	21
Food Poisoning enquiries	9
Miscellaneous	6

Meat and Food Inspection

Visits to Slaughterhouses	831
Visits to Butchers	39
Visits to Confectioners	45
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	17

Visits to Grocers	71
Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	14
Visits to Bakers and Confectioners	21
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	17
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	10
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	40
Visits for Ice-Cream Samples	75
Visits for Food Samples (Bacteriological)	70
Visits to Restaurants and Catering Establishments	104
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	52
Visits to Licensed Premises	61
Visits to Market Stalls	151
Visits to Mobile Shops and Delivery Vans	36
Miscellaneous	97

Explosives

Visits in connection with Explosives	40
Visits in connection with Petroleum Spirit	311

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

<u>Washing - Food and Equipment</u>	
Sinks provided or renewed	3
Water heater renewed	4
Drainage boards provided/renewed	5

<u>Washing - Hands</u>	
Washbasins provided or renewed	4
Nailbrushes provided	9
Notices provided	8

<u>W. C. Compartments</u>	
Cleansed	8
Ventilation provided	1

<u>Food Rooms</u>	
Ventilation improved	1
Lighting improved	2
Walls repaired	4
Walls cleansed	7
Ceilings cleansed	5
Ceilings repaired	4
Floors repaired	5
Rooms redecorated	10

<u>General</u>	
S. D. Bins provided	2
Food raised 18" above ground	6
Impervious surfaces repaired/renewed	3
Locker provided for clothing	1

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966.

Names and Addresses inscribed on vehicles or stalls	4
First Aid Kits provided	6
Washbasins provided	2

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Section 4 - Cleanliness

Decoration of rooms	7
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Section 6 - Temperature

Provision of adequate heating	3
Provision of thermometers	7

Section 7 - Ventilation

Provision of adequate ventilation	4
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Section 9 - Sanitary Conveniences

W. C's provided	1
W. C. Compartments re-decorated	3
Gents and Ladies signs provided	3
Provision of artificial lighting	1
Ventilation provided/improved	2
Mechanical ventilation provided	1
I. V. S. made effective	2

Section 10 - Washing Facilities

Provision of hot water supply	7
Provision of cold water supply	3
Provision of wash hand basin	2
Provision of towels	4

Section 12 - Clothing Accommodation

Accommodation provided/improved	9
Provision of heating for drying clothes	2

Section 16 - Floors, Passages etc.

Handrail provided	3
Staircase repaired	2
Floor coverings renewed	1

Section 17 - Machinery

Provision of guards	3
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Section 24 - First Aid

Provision of first aid box	9
Existing first aid boxes brought up to standard	10

<u>Regulations - Abstract displayed</u>	15
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Factories Act

Artificial lighting provided to W.C's	1
Sanitary conveniences cleansed	1
Sanitary conveniences re-decorated	2
W.C. cisterns repaired	3
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	1

Shops Act, 1950.

Forms exhibited	15
Investigation of complaint of excessive hours by Young Persons	1

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Removal of harbourage	2
Drains repaired or sealed off	6

I would like to take this opportunity of recording my thanks and appreciation for the support given to me by Members of the Council, for the co-operation of colleagues in other departments, and not least, for the loyalty and diligence of my own staff throughout the year.

I am, Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

D. J. HUNT,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

